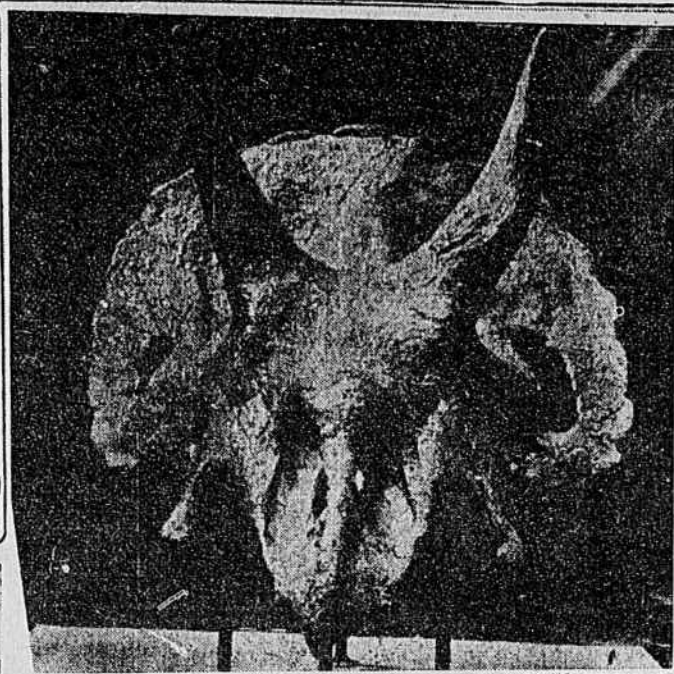
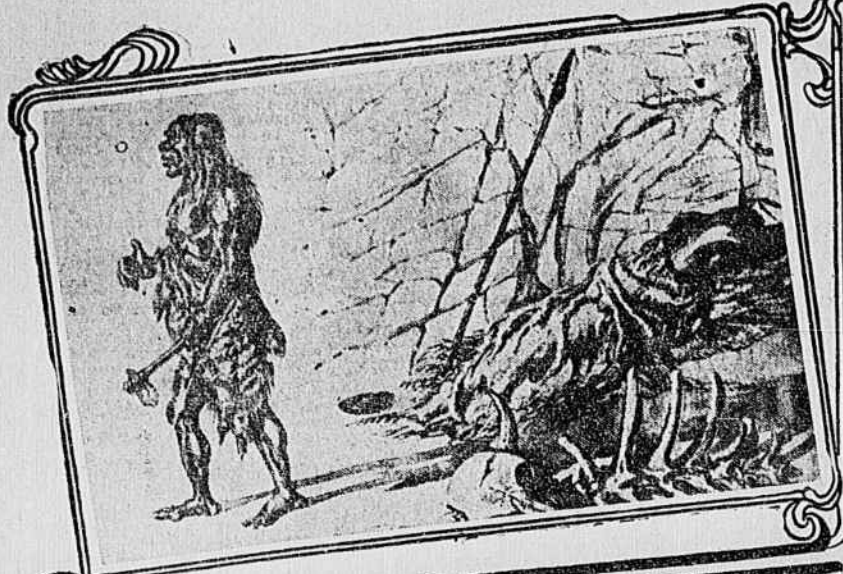


Animals Which Lived When This World Was Young

The man who was near est the age of reptiles.

An expert worked a year in restoring this diceratops's head.

In the end the creature was restored as in life 10,000,000 years ago.



BY WILLIAM A. HERTON DU PUY.
 CREATURES of strange and grotesque shape, such as walked the earth when time was young, are just now being released from a rock bondage of 10,000,000 years and given to the light of day at the government's great museum in Washington. The fossil remains of hideous monsters, held prisoners through the aeons, are being freed from the stone that incased them, and such forms as the eye of modern man never before looked upon are being set up and the world invited to come and see.

For the National Museum has just discovered itself heir to such a heritage of prehistoric lore as has never before fallen to the lot of a scientific institution. Accumulating dust for a quarter of a century in the basement of the old museum have rested 500 boxes, containing a collection of rock that would make the chaperon of any chain gang green with envy. One man who lived, as most great men do, a generation ahead of his time had known of the secrets locked up in these rocks. He had devoted his life

and his fortune to their preservation. When he had died he had left them to the National Museum, with an inspirational foreboding which told him that thus would the door of knowledge be opened to the world.

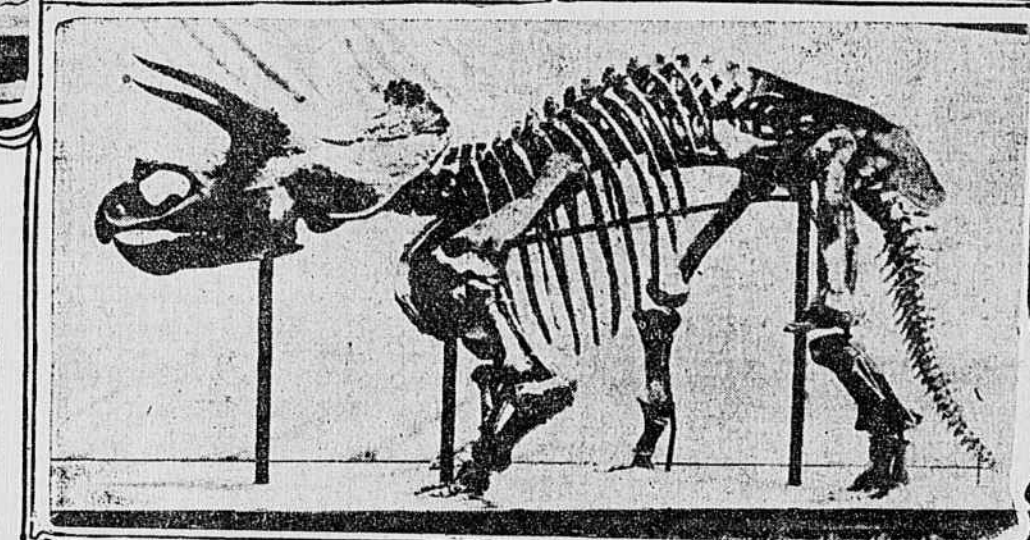
Rediscovered Scientific Wealth.
 The man died while his secret was still held in stone. Last year the National Museum found itself the possessor of a new building of magnificent proportions. It had an opportunity to spread out and take stock of the material that it has been accumulating since the nation began in just the way it had been bequeathed these specimens. There are acres of basements about Washington filled with such material, and in many cases the record kept of the source or value of it. In its investigation of its resources the National Museum pulled this off of some of those boxes of stone and began a study of their contents. So far but partially knows of their value, but already it is sure that such fossil wealth as it possesses are as El Dorados and Klondikes to the scientific student. There are such treasures as it will take another generation to work out.

Professor O. C. Marsh is the man responsible for the existence of the present collection. Back in the seventies he was paleontologist for the Geological Survey. It was in the course of his field work for the government that he discovered the remains of these prehistoric animals that existed in the days when the world was a swampy jungle overrun with rank vegetation and inhabited by a race of monster reptiles such as are known to modern man only through their petrified remains.

That the world has changed greatly since those times is evinced by the fact that the regions that were then great swampy marshes are now the highest mountain ranges and plateaus that the continent knows. Wyoming and Colorado have proven themselves the greatest treasure houses for this sort of specimen that the world has ever known. Prof. Marsh found that in certain quarries in Wyoming rock was being hewn out and used for building stone that was immeasurably rich in geological value.

Professor Marsh's Collections.
 Professor Marsh recognized the opportunity that was offered him of collecting valuable material. He realized that this was a great chance for operating in an absolutely new field, of collecting the best in his field of endeavor that was to be offered by a new and unexplored country. He induced Yale, at which university he had taught, to furnish certain amounts of money for the collection of his fossils. From the Federal government he begged the greatest possible appropriations. All these he expended and yet the wonder house of specimens was hardly scratched. He was a man of comfortable private fortune, and all this he also threw into his hobby. All these public and private funds he expended without stint in gathering and boxing up the specimens of the animals of yore. He dragged the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming back and forth, finding in many localities specimens that were to him like great blocks of stone that must be preserved unbroken until their hidden forms were revealed were freighted many miles over the worst of mountain roads and shipped other thousands of miles over Western roads, where freight rates were high. The hardships of the West and of toil in isolated regions were faced for years, but in the end the specimens were stored in the secret of the animal life on the world when all was a primeval, humid morass, where the only growth was the monster fern that dwarfs the forests of to-day and the only animal life as the eye of our reptiles, but grown to the size of mastodons.

To recreate the petrified remains of



The fossil bones of every part of the Triceratops were finally in place.

an animal from the rock which incases it is a task of infinite care and infinite labor. It requires the painstaking labor of many scientific chisellers working for many years. It requires the expenditure of great sums of money through great periods of time. Yale has not had the money with which to work out more than a small percentage of the rock which Professor Marsh left to that institution. The National Museum has been able to barely begin to unfold the secrets that it holds in storage. But this beginning has been a prophecy of the things that are to come.

Solving Rock Secrets.
 There is the diceratops, for instance. This is a weird creature many times as large as a hippopotamus, huge of horn, with a bill like that of a duck and a tail like that of a monster snake. There is a flute of bone back of its horns that is a yard across. It is one of the characteristic monsters of its time.

The best specimen of the diceratops was found in a most interesting way. Professor Marsh was traveling overland through Wyoming when he noticed a huge boulder lying upon the



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plain. With the instinct of a paleontologist he went to examine the boulder. Much to his surprise he found the tips of two monster horns protruding from it. From their positions with reference to each other he decided that they were parts of a head that was still intact. He boxed the entire boulder and made it a part of his collection.

That boulder was a year ago dug up from among the boxes of the Marsh collection. For an entire twelve months C. W. Gilmore, a man of wide experience in such work, has been chiseling at the big boulder. That year of work has resulted in the cutting away of all the stone that was not a portion of the prehistoric head. There remains but the stone of a different texture that was once a portion of the monster's head. The infinite care and pains that is necessary in accomplishing such a task, in removing the stone that is not of the specimen and yet leaving the animal remains unharmed is the secret of re-establishing these creatures of old.

This was a wonderfully perfect specimen of the head of this one creature. It established with a degree of thoroughness the bone formation of its head. But, what was the rest of the creature like? How might the whole skeleton be completed? These were further problems.

Possibly in another set of bones found elsewhere Dr. Marsh would find the bare tip of a jawbone that indicated that this creature was also of the same breed as the diceratops. This specimen might establish the form of the front body of the animal. Down in Colorado might be located other fossil bones with a shoulder blade that hitched onto the second rib, and this collection might contain bones of the hind legs. The tail might be lacking, and a search of years might go on before a bill was found that was identified with a creature of the right breed and duckbill to finish the complete animal. Then would the whole creature be complete, and then might the bones be articulated and the complete formation of the animal set up as it had stood when it trod the fern marshes of old.

Completing Triceratops.
 The diceratops and the triceratops are closely allied species. One has two horns, while the other has a third horn on its nose. There is otherwise little difference in the creatures.

From these fossil bones the skeleton structure of triceratops was finally completed. In fact, the original skeleton of the creature was set up as accurately as might be the skeleton of a horse. After this the problem faced the restorer of cushioning that frame with flesh and making the creature stand forth as it did in days of old. The footprints of the creature were somewhere found in geologic rock. This determined the shape of the foot. The heavy tail had left its mark in the wake of the footprints. In another place the imprint of the scales of its skin was found. It was known to be a reptile and its coloring was

absent of hair were taken to resemble those of such modern creatures as the alligator. A clue to one part of its body was found here and to another part there. In the end the scientist had in his mind a picture that left little to the imagination, for he had the evidence of the formation of the creature in all its completeness. With this idea in mind he constructed a model of it. This model was the creature of 10,000,000 years ago brought back for the delectation of the moderns.

The model was turned over to certain papier mache manufacturers, who know nothing of prehistoric creatures, but who will manufacture a paper

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Professor O. C. Marsh, collector of fossils.

creation to order that is so accurate that a photograph of it cannot be told from a picture of the live animal. The scientists gave the dimensions of the creature in accordance with skeleton measurements. Presto! In a few days the National Museum was in possession of a triceratops such as prowled the jungles in the days when the world was torridly hot, when a dense cloud hung ever overhead and precipitated a humid haze, when ferns alone represented the vegetable world and the only living creatures were reptiles that perpetuated their kind through the eggs they laid in the sun.

Enter Stegosaurus.
 But the triceratops is an inconspicuous creature compared with the stegosaurus. Here is a creature twice as long as an elephant, heavy in the hips, with a small front body and a tail of sufficient weight to almost balance it with the hips as a fulcrum. Here, again, the head is small and duck-billed. The tail is most formidable, and is armed with five most wicked-looking horns that would seem capable of doing great damage should the creature thrash about with it.

Skeletons of the stegosaurus in almost complete form were found in Colorado and Wyoming. In a single quarry so many bones of this huge creature were found as to almost reconstruct it. But here again were the faintest stone off of the true fossil. To prevent a mistake, in excavating for the bones a map of the quarry was drawn. Wherever a bone was found it was placed upon the map and numbered. Then the bones were boxed and sent to the museum together with this map. So when the time came for the reconstruction a quarter of a century later, here was the record of the finding of the bones. The positions of these bones are an indication of the portions of the skeleton to which they belong. They are a clue to the reconstruction. The men of the museum lay out the bones in accordance with the map, and the process of pulling them together and correlating them is begun. This, of course, after a year or two has been spent in chipping the foreign stone off of the true fossil.

The great papier mache model of the stegosaurus at the National Museum boasts a series of flutes along the back such as have never been even approximated by any modern animal. These were established as actually existent by their actual discovery in connection with the skeleton. The museum has a handsome collection of these armor plates in its possession, indestructibly petrified into stone. Their use is still a matter of contention among the scientists. It is argued that this was a semi-aquatic creature, and that these were probably defenses against creatures of the air that might attack the monster while the lower portions of the body were submerged. A further theory is that they were used for fanning off mosquitoes that in those days were probably in proportion to the rankness of the growth of other things. It is even ventured that these sawblades might have been used in cutting a way through the jungles of old.

Other weird creatures. Mounted in the size of one of the

The triceratops, which of yore inhabited what is now Kansas.

great halls of the new National Museum is the skeleton of a triceratops, a small, duck-billed, semi-snake about the size of a modern camel. The bones of this creature were found intact and incased in the solid rock. The stone was shipped with the Marsh collection, and the experts have so cut away the foreign formation as to show the creature as it rested in its native stone. The great slab has been completed and squared up, and now makes a part of the wall of the museum, the bones still resting half imbedded in it. Others of these creatures have been restored and stand gaunt and forbidding in the showcases of the display room.

A similar piece of work has been completed with reference to the pterodactyl, a combination aquatic and jungle creature of the air, more closely allied to the great bats of India than any other modern animal. While the other creatures of its time were looting the jungles of Wyoming and Colorado these huge winged things were circling over the seas of what is now Kansas. It was in Kansas that the bones of a complete wing of one of them was found, and that enough information was amassed for a reconstruction. From this skeleton an artist's conception of the pterodactyl has been drawn and is exhibited together with the fossil remains.

When these creatures roamed about the world it had been about 10,000,000 years since animal life had begun. With the one-molecule creatures of the seas the growth had gone on and on until it came to its rankest in this time, a period when huge reptiles dominated the earth. Since that time an approximate 10,000,000 or additional years have circled around, and with them the reptiles have gradually lost their dominance and in their place the mammals have gained away. Finally, man, the king of the mammals has developed the capacity to take thought and to use tools and to laugh thus distinguishing himself from the others and through some or other of these qualities enabling himself to outstrip them. So in these days of the twentieth century the man is going back into the aeons that are gone and reconstructing the creatures that were dominant before him. When the world was half as old he finds strange conditions which he is just beginning to thoroughly understand. The sum total of his knowledge of those times is just now being greatly increased through the unfolding of the treasures of the Marsh collection at the National Museum. But enough of it has been restored to give a promise of what is to come. But it is safe to say that there is prospect of getting sufficient creatures in papier mache to populate a well equipped zoo, using only the creatures of this long age.

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